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1958

HELSTON

COUNCIL

BOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



HELSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :-

G. D. K. Needham, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(to March, 1958)

J. F. McCourt, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M.D.P.H (Dublin)  
(from May, 1958)

Chief Public Health Inspector :-

N. E. Whitby, A.I.A.S., A.F.S.(Eng)., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector :-

R. C. Decent, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk of Works :-

W. E. Dingle.

Shorthand Typist/Clerical Assistant :-

Miss F. G. Barrett.



## SECTION A

### 1. Statistics

Area .....	4017 acres
Estimated mid year Home Population ..	6590
Average number of persons per acre ..	1.64
Number of inhabited houses .....	2221
Average number of inhabited houses) per acre)	0.55
Average number of persons per house	2.97
Rateable value .....	£68,860
Product of a penny rate .....	£277

### 2. Live Births and Birth Rate

The following is the number of live births registered in 1958 in the Borough:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	94	89	183
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>186</u>

This shows an increase of 43 live births over 1957, and gives a Crude Birth Rate for 1958 of 28.22 per 1,000 population compared with 22.84 for 1957.

The Comparability factor for births, supplied by the Registrar General for 1958 is 0.92. In comparing the birth rate in Helston with that of the country as a whole, the local figure must be multiplied by this factor, before any valid comparison can be made as this allows for differences in population structure.

The following table shows the number of births and Crude Birth Rate in Helston over the past 6 years and a comparison between the Birth Rates for Helston and the country as a whole:-

Year	Helston Number of Births	Helston Crude Birth Rate	Helston adjusted Birth Rate i.e. multiplied by comparability factor.	England & Wales Birth Rate.
1953	130	22.46	22.04	15.5
1954	112	18.73	17.59	15.2
1955	134	22.98	21.60	15.0
1956	131	21.48	20.19	15.6
1957	143	22.84	21.01	16.1
1958	186	28.22	25.96	16.4

The increase in the Birth Rate continues and as can be seen, exceeds the National average.

### 3. Stillbirths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>



## Stillbirths - Annual Totals

<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
5	5	4	2	6	3

### 4. Infant Mortality - Deaths of Infants under 1 year

During the year 1 male infant died. The cause of death was prematurity and the baby only lived 3 days.

### 5. Maternal Mortality

One death associated with pregnancy occurred during the year. The cause of death was given as Fatty Myocardial Degeneration.

### 6. Deaths and Death Rate

The following are the numbers of deaths which occurred in Helston in 1958:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
50	49	99

The total of 99 is 9 less than in 1957, and gives a Crude Death Rate for 1958 of 15.02 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 17.25 in 1957.

The Area comparability factor for deaths supplied by the Registrar General, for 1958 is 0.63. In general death rates are higher among males than females at all ages and also among the very young and very old. Therefore the death rates of an area will depend not only on the healthiness of its environment, but also on whether there are many very young and very old people in the community.

No comparison of local death rates with those of the country as a whole would be valid unless this age and sex element in the population was first eliminated and this is done by multiplying the Crude Death Rate by the Comparability Factor. The factor for Helston is 0.63 and being less than one, indicates that the composition of the population in itself tends to produce a high crude death rate.

Thus, while the crude death rate for 1958 is 15.02, the adjusted rate for comparison with the country as a whole is 9.46 which is lower than the Death Rate for England and Wales of 11.7.

The following table shows the deaths and crude death rates for Helston and also the adjusted rates compared with those for England and Wales:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Helston Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Helston Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Helston adjusted Death Rate</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales Death Rate</u>
1953	109	18.52	13.93	11.4
1954	105	18.05	13.89	11.3
1955	117	20.06	13.20	11.7
1956	120	19.67		11.7
1957	108	17.25	10.52	11.5
1958	99	15.02	9.46	11.7

This table shows a decline in the death rate which is now below that for the country as a whole.







# 7. Population Growth

Year	Registrar General's Estimated Population	Births	Deaths	National Increase i.e. excess Births over deaths
1953	5787	130	109	+ 21
1954	5820	112	105	+ 7
1955	5830	134	117	+ 17
1956	6100	131	120	+ 11
1957	6260	143	108	+ 35
1958	6590	186	99	+ 87

# 8. Deaths from all Causes 1958

	Males	Females	Total 1958	Total 1957
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	-	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other forms .....	-	1	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	-	-	-	1
4. Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-	-
8. Measles .....	-	-	-	-
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases ...	-	-	-	-
10. Cancer of stomach .....	1	3	4	2
11. Cancer of lung .....	1	-	1	1
12. Cancer of breast .....	-	1	1	6
13. Cancer of uterus .....	-	4	4	1
14. Other cancers .....	4	4	8	7
15. Leukaemia .....	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes .....	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	5	7	12	17
18. Coronary disease .....	8	3	11	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	1	2	4
20. Other heart disease .....	21	25	46	33
21. Other circulatory disease .....	-	-	-	3
22. Influenza .....	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia .....	1	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis .....	1	-	1	5
25. Other diseases of Respiratory system ...	-	-	-	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea .....	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis .....	-	-	-	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	-	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion .....	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .....	1	-	1	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases ...	3	-	3	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	-	1	-
34. All other accidents .....	-	-	-	1
35. Suicide .....	1	-	1	-
36. Homicide & operation of war .....	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u> .....	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>108</u>



## Comment

Disease of the Heart and Circulation, collectively constitute by far the commonest cause of death. 74 such deaths were recorded, compared with 68 in 1957.

Deaths from all forms of Cancer, the second commonest cause of death numbered 18 compared with 17 in 1957.

In general however the tendency over the past few years has been for an increase in the birth rate and a decrease in death rate, with a resultant increase in the population of Helston.



## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services

This section covers both Kerrier Rural District and Helston Borough, as all services are shared alike between them, and certain services, such as Home Help are provided for both areas without distinction.

### Hospital Services

Patient may be treated at Camborne-Redruth General Hospital, The Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, The Falmouth and District Hospital, The West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance or Helston Cottage Hospital, depending on the needs and residence of the patient.

Tuberculosis inpatient treatment is centred at Tehidy Hospital, Camborne, and out-patient and contact clinics are held at Camborne, Falmouth and Penzance.

The Geriatric Unit is centred at Barncoose Hospital, Redruth, with annexes at Menage House, Helston and Dudock House, Falmouth.

### Midwifery, Nursing and Health Visiting Services

Home Nursing and midwifery are undertaken by the District Nurse Midwives, who are also Health Visitors, with responsibility for the care of children up to school age.

#### Staff Complement

Kerrier	-	11 all purpose nurses 1 Part-time T.B. Visitor
Helston	-	2 Nurse Midwives 1 Full-time Health Visitor
Forthleven		1 all purpose nurse.

The work in the districts has proceeded well. In the more rural districts the nurse covers all duties, being general nurse, midwife, school nurse and health visitor. She is a practical nurse and a social worker coping with the difficulties of a scattered population to the best of her ability, and regarding the responsibilities of Health Teacher as an important part of her work.

In Helston district there are excellent attendances at the organised Welfare Clinics, Ante-Natal Educational Classes and now at the Parents Club started in 1957 and held in the Band Room on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m.. Various speakers are invited to talk on special subjects associated with the important business of Parenthood. The membership grows and the attendances have justified the experiment.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held weekly (Wednesday afternoon) at Menage Hospital, Helston, and is principally attended by mothers and children from the Borough itself although some parents attend from further afield.

### Home Help Service

The Service is administered by the H.V.S. from the offices of Kerrier Rural District Council, and covers most of the area except some parts near Falmouth and in the North of the district nearer Camborne and Redruth, which are supplied with Home Helps from their respective nearest centres.

Home Helps are provided mainly for maternity cases, general illness in the home including Tuberculosis and for Aged & Infirm persons.

### Dental Services

These are provided by the County Council under the direction of a Chief Dental Officer. Each school is periodically visited, and when treatment is required, arrangements are made for attendance at Menage House, Helston.



## Dental Services

These are provided by the County Council under the direction of a Chief Dental Officer. Each school is periodically visited, and when treatment is required arrangements are made for attendance at Meneage House, Helston, where dental clinic sessions are held weekly. Treatment is also provided at the clinic for pre-school children and nursing mothers when referred by the appropriate Medical Officer.





# SECTION C

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year 1958 with comparative figures for the four preceding years.

### Helston and Kerrier Districts(combined)

Disease	Kerrier	1958 Helston	Total	1957	1956	1955	1954
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	2	8	3	25	11	8
Whooping Cough	7	2	9	50	5	52	173
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	394	202	596	158	242	390	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2	6	2	3	3
Acute Poliomyelitis							
Paralytic	1	-	1	11	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis							
Pulmonary	12	6	18	14	19	17	26
Non-Pulmonary	3	1	4	4	-	4	4

### Comment

The year 1958 was unspectacular in relation to Infectious Diseases. It was however a "Measles" year, 596 cases being notified in the Helston and Kerrier area, compared with 158 in 1957. The epidemic commenced in July and continued until December when notifications were still being received. The incidence was greatest in children over 5 years. There was every indication that the outbreak would continue into 1959 and spread to the younger children. No deaths occurred despite the high incidence of Measles and this reflects credit on the care these children received from the family doctors and from their parents as the vast majority of cases of measles were cared for in their own homes.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified in the Helston Borough during the year, one paralytic case, a man of 33 years was notified from the Kerrier District.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas both manifestations of the same type of organism, was low. So also was that of Whooping Cough.



## Immunisation and Vaccination

### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The year 1958 saw a continuation of the scheme for immunisation against poliomyelitis which commenced in 1956 and which catered for children up to 15 years together with expectant mothers, doctors and ambulance staff and their families.

Towards the end of 1958, the scheme was extended to include all persons up to the age of 26 years. A third or re-inforcing injection was also advised for all those who had already received two injections at least 7 months previously.

During 1958 the following were vaccinated against poliomyelitis in the Helston and Kerrier area.

#### Helston Borough 1958

	Received 2 injections		2nd. injections	3rd. injection
	Under 15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.		
County Council Clinics	353	59	412	132
General Practitioners	780	63	843	82
Totals for 1958	1133	122	1255	214

Total immunised against poliomyelitis in Helston Borough since the beginning of the scheme in 1956:-

Received 2 injections		2nd. injections	3rd. injection
Under 15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.		
1293	124	1417	214

#### Kerrier Rural District 1958

	Received 2 injections		2nd. injections	3rd. injection
	Under 15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.		
County Council Clinics	820	33	853	152
General Practitioners	1628	71	1699	114
Totals for 1958	2448	104	2552	266

Total immunised against poliomyelitis in Kerrier Rural District since the beginning of the scheme in 1956:-

Received 2 injections		2nd. injections	3rd. injection
Under 15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.		
2895	109	3004	246

There has been a good response on the part of the general public and ready co-operation by the family doctors.

During the year there was still some doubt in many parents minds as to whether they should choose Salk or British vaccine for their children. Supplies of British vaccine were limited whereas Salk vaccine was fairly plentiful. The considerable amount of publicity given to this matter by the National Press served only to further confuse the issue for many. Towards the end of the year, doubts about the safety of the Salk vaccine proved unfounded, since no untoward reactions occurred in any of the children immunised with Salk vaccine.





## Diphtheria Immunisation

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, in the Helston - Kerrier area.

Immunisation against diphtheria continued at a reasonably satisfactory level and the following are the numbers immunised in the area:-

### Helston Borough

#### Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
0 - 5 years	110	-
5 - 15 years	-	10
<u>Totals</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>10</u>

#### Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough or Diphtheria/Tetanus

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
0 - 5 years	2	-
5 - 15 years	-	1
<u>Totals</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

### Diphtheria

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
0 - 5 years	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	56
<u>Totals</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56</u>

### Kerrier Rural District

#### Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
0 - 5 years	246	1
5 - 15 years	8	41
<u>Totals</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>42</u>

#### Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough or Diphtheria/Tetanus

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
0 - 5 years	5	1
5 - 15 years	5	7
<u>Totals</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>





## Diphtheria

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
0 - 5 years	-	-
5 - 15 years	3	244
<u>Totals</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>244</u>

## Smallpox Vaccination

The following vaccinations were carried out in 1958:-

### Kerrier Rural District

	<u>Primary Vaccination</u>	<u>Re-vaccination</u>	<u>Total 1958</u>	<u>Total 1957</u>
0 - 5 years	113	2	115	108
5 - 15 years	4	12	16	23
Over 15 years	10	15	25	64
<u>Totals</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>200</u>

### Helston Borough

	<u>Primary Vaccination</u>	<u>Re-vaccination</u>	<u>Total 1958</u>	<u>Total 1957</u>
0 - 5 years	99	1	100	92
5 - 15 years	5	4	9	20
Over 15 years	10	7	17	20
<u>Totals</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>132</u>

### Comment

The great majority of primary immunisations against Diphtheria are carried out with the Triple Antigen against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus and the majority of boosters against Diphtheria alone.

The fact that cases of Diphtheria have not occurred in the area for some years, while being very creditable, should not lull us into a false sense of security. The organisms that cause diphtheria are still with us and to allow immunisation to drop below a certain level would render an outbreak of this disease possible. It is estimated that about 65% of the children under 5 years have been immunised against diphtheria. While this is fairly good, I should prefer to see this figure over 70%

Smallpox vaccination is at a low level and has been for many years. Only about 30% of parents have their children vaccinated.

## Tuberculosis

During 1958, there were 34 new cases of tuberculosis notified in Helston and Kerrier area, 24 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary. Five persons who suffered from tuberculosis died during the year. In one of these, tuberculosis was not the principal cause of death.



# Age Distribution of New Cases & Mortality during 1958

## Kerrier Rural District

Ages	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 1 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 yrs.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 yrs.	1	2	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 45 yrs.	4	6	10	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 65 yrs.	2	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	9	16	2	3	5	2	-	2	-	-	-

## Helston Borough

Ages	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 1 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 45 yrs.	2	2	4	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
45 - 65 yrs.	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	6	2	8	-	2	2	2	-	2	-	1	1

During the year 15 persons were classed as recovered from tuberculosis and were removed from the Tuberculosis Register. Four persons suffering from tuberculosis were transferred in from other areas and 8 left the district.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Notification Register at 31st. December, 1958, was as follows, with the figures for 1957 in brackets:-

<u>Kerrier</u>	<u>Helston</u>
149 (147)	55 (51)

B.C.G. vaccine was given to 45 contacts of cases in the Kerrier district and to 8 contacts in Helston.

## B.C.G. for Schoolchildren

B.C.G. vaccine is available for school children aged 13 - 14 years prior to their leaving school. The following are the figures for the Kerrier and Helston area of children so protected during 1958:-

Number of children	)	
Skin tested and inspected	)	115
Number giving positive skin reaction		25
Number of children with negative reaction		90
Number given B.C.G.		89

Out of 115 children skin tested, 25 or 21.7% showed evidence of having come in contact with a tuberculous infection.



# CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1958.

Public Health Department,  
The Guildhall,  
HELSTON.

To His Worship the Mayor and members of the Borough Council.

Your Worship, Miss Langdon, Mrs. Slade and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my report for the year ended the 31st December, 1958, during which year we have welcomed Dr. McCourt to the Staff as Medical Officer of Health.

The year has proved to be one of routine without spectacular results. It has been a little discouraging that the Rent Act has not produced the expected improvements in housing conditions, although more owners are making use of the improvement grants and much progress has been made in improving sub-standard houses, but again, the bulk of these improvements are in owner-occupied houses.

Slum clearance has proceeded at a pace comparable to the building of new houses and in this field of activity it has been a year of disappointment.

We look forward to next year when it is hoped that the new relief sewer will be completed and the flooding of the lower part of the town will be relieved.

Meat Inspection continues to grow and absorb much of the officer's time and it is regrettably true that the high percentage of meat inspection achieved is done so at the expence of routine visits to food shops and food preparation premises.

Once again I am indeed indebted to the hard work and loyalty of the Staff and their willingness to put in many hours of overtime for the sake of the job; a factor I sincerely hope will be appreciated by the Council.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. P. Mather.

Chief Public Health Inspector.





## SECTION D.

### 1. WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Helston is supplied with mains water by the Helston & Porthleven Water Company. All water is treated by automatic chlorination.

Samples for bacteriological examination were taken with the following results :-

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Samples submitted</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Helston	24	22	2
Porthleven	15	14	1

Where unsatisfactory samples were obtained the Water Company were notified. In each case the mains were flushed and follow-up samples were satisfactory. In this connection two samples were taken for residual chlorine test and were reported satisfactory.

One sample was taken at Porthleven for chemical analysis following a complaint of cloudiness. The analyst's report was satisfactory and he reported the water as pure and wholesome, with no iron present and no precipitation forming.

Bacteriological samples were also taken in respect of certain non-mains supplies with the following results :-

<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory or Reasonably Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Borderline.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
26	14	2	10

These unsatisfactory samples were from a group of four properties some distance from the nearest main. At the end of the year the Council were in communication with the Water Company with a view to getting a main laid to the properties under a guarantee scheme as provided by Section 36 of the Water Act, 1945. In the meantime occupiers were advised to boil their water.

### 2. SEWERAGE.

Sewerage occupied a considerable amount of time as several serious problems developed during the year.

#### Helston Ward

Sewage from higher levels gravitates to the disposal works. Drainage from lower parts of the town are pumped by automatic plant.

Post-war development including the construction of several hundred Council, Admiralty and private houses have caused severe over-loading of one section of sewer in a low-lying part of the town. To cope with this situation a 15 inch relief sewer was planned, but unfortunately the final completion of this scheme was prevented (until 1959) by legal difficulties.

The year was remarkable for the number of severe thunderstorms and many burghers who previously had doubts about the wisdom of investing in the relief sewer were now demanding its urgent completion. The Corporation staff took all possible action to alleviate nuisances after flooding. A defect in a branch sewer which allowed a large volume of stream water to enter the sewerage system was also traced and remedied.

At the same time as surface water was disrupting the efficiency of the sewers it was found that a considerable number of foul drains were discharging to the town's old drainage system, i.e. by surface and underground leats and culverts to the River Cober. In order to assess the extent of this problem a series of tests were arranged to





trace the disposal of drainage from over a hundred properties in the central Helston area and by the end of the year a fairly clear picture had been obtained for future action.

The sewage disposal works are of modern design and after primary filtration, settlement and aeration, the effluent is discharged into the River Cober. Mention was made in the 1957 report of the large amount of slaughterhouse waste and blood entering the sewers and being largely responsible for unsatisfactory effluent samples. Work was completed during the year on the construction of a holding tank at the slaughterhouse (as recommended by the Pollution Prevention Officer of the Cornwall River Board). This resulted in the bulk of the blood being kept out of the sewers (incidentally reducing the seriousness of the nuisances after bad storms). As a result of this the final effluent was much improved although still slightly below the recommended standard. Experiments are proceeding at the sewage works to obtain increased aeration and some success has been achieved by inexpensive improvisations. In this connection I must acknowledge the interest and help received from Dr. F. D. M. Hocking the County Pathologist and Analyst.

A few scattered properties in the Borough are not on main drainage and previously arrangements were made with the Kerrier Rural District Council for the use of their cesspool emptier when required. This year, however, contractors have been employed and an efficient service is obtained at reasonable cost. This is no reflection on our neighbouring local authority who have co-operated extremely well in the past, but obviously must concentrate on their own district, and no doubt find their resources severely taxed during the summer holiday period.

#### Porthleven Ward.

The sewerage system here is by outfalls to the sea and harbour.

Porthleven can claim to be one of the first seaside villages in the Westcountry to have a sewerage scheme. The fishing village has now developed into an expanding township, and the Council will inevitably have to undertake a scheme to bring the system up to modern standards. The necessity for this was brought to a head when action of the elements caused the main outlet culvert to get so badly choked with silt and debris that work of clearing became a major operation, and in the meantime there was a serious public health nuisance on a public beach.

Some time after this trouble the Minister of Housing and Local Government acceded to my Council's request to send an expert adviser to help assess the problem, and this action, somewhat against Ministry precedent, was much appreciated by the Corporation. At the time of writing this report the Council are awaiting the recommendations of a firm of consultants.

### 3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Work to improve conditions in food premises continued to receive our attention, but conflicting duties, especially meat inspection, meant that inspections of food premises were not so frequent as I would like. The extent to which the Food Hygiene Regulations were complied with tended to be very good in those establishments where there has been a minimum of staff changes, but not so satisfactory in premises with a quicker "turnover" of food-handling employees. Whether this means we are reaping the benefits from earlier advisory action, or that the more efficient and consequently more hygienic-minded food establishments tend to hold on to their staff is a matter for conjecture.

Visits made to food premises were as follows :-

Catering Premises	...	30
Bakehouses	...	3



Visits made to food premises (Contd.).

Provision Shops	...	31
Ice Cream Dealers	...	56
Butchers	..	15
Fruit & Veg. Shops	...	2
Wet Fish Shops	...	4
Fried Fish Shops	...	10
Dairies	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	4
Slaughterhouse	...	704

4. FOOD SAMPLING.

The Cornwall County Council is the responsible authority for sampling food and drugs for chemical analysis, to ensure food standards are maintained. I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Rundle, Divisional Inspector of the County Weights and Measures Department, for details of samples taken in the Borough during 1958.

<u>Article Samples.</u>	<u>No. Taken.</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Adulterated.</u>
Christmas Pudding.	1	1	-
Cornish Pasty.	9	3	6
Ground Almonds.	1	1	-
Ice Cream.	1	1	-
Milk.	24	24	-
Orange Marmalade.	1	1	-
Pork Sausages.	1	1	-
Raspberry Jam.	1	1	-
Special Vinegar.	1	1	-
Whisky.	2	2	-
Totals :-	42	36	6

No sample calls for adverse comment except the Cornish Pasties which were found to be deficient in their meat content. The County Analyst has expressed the opinion that a Cornish Pasty should contain meat to the extent of 10% of the whole article, or 20% of the fill, and the six mentioned above failed to reach this requirement. In all cases the manufacturers were cautioned and further samples will be taken during the coming year.

5. MILK.

Helston has been a specified area under the Milk (Special Designations) Order since 1st. April, 1957. Almost all the milk consumed in the Borough is from the pasteurising plant of two dairies situated outside the Borough.

Nine samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the public health laboratory for phosphatase and methylene blue tests and all were reported satisfactory.

Nine dairymen were licensed as retailers of designated milks.

6. ICE CREAM.

Eight premises were registered during the year for the sale and storage of ice cream. The total number of premises now registered is :-

Manufacturers	...	1
Ice Cream Dealers...		31

Forty three samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination with the following results :-





## Ice Cream (Contd).

<u>Produced.</u>	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>
In Borough	24	8	6	6	4
Outside Borough	19	14	4	-	1
Totals --	43	22	10	6	5

Considerable attention was given to one local ice cream factory owing to the large number of Grade 3 and Grade 4 samples. I would like to report that the cause of the poor samples had been positively located and an improvement realised and maintained, but unfortunately this was not achieved. The manufacturer was co-operative, his plant in good condition and his manufacturing and sterilizing technique apparently correct, but nevertheless unsatisfactory samples were all too frequent.

In addition to ice cream samples specimens were taken of water from basins and jugs provided for ice cream servers. In some cases the results were alarming. However, the retailers were advised in every case and subsequently considerable improvement was obtained.

7. MEAT INSPECTION.

Most of the animals slaughtered in the Borough are for export to other areas. The number of animals killed was again high, being 50,548 against 41,358 in 1957. The percentage inspected remained about 80%, the total inspected was 40,933 compared to 32,246 in 1957.

There was a marked fall in the incidence of disease in all animals except calves, eleven calves being condemned compared to five the previous year.

## Details of Carcasses &amp; Offal Inspected and Condemned :-

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding</u> <u>Cows &amp; Bulls.</u>	<u>Bulls</u> <u>and</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses.</u>
Number killed	1014	803	2392	7714	38625	-
Number inspected	897	677	2130	4591	32638	-
All diseases EXCEPT tuberculosis and cysticerci						
<u>Whole carcasses</u> <u>condemned.</u>	1	2	9	22	42	-
<u>Carcasses of which some</u> <u>part or organ was</u> <u>condemned.</u>	92	128	4	425	1288	-
<u>Percentage of the No.</u> <u>affected with disease</u> <u>other than tuberculosis</u> <u>and cysticerci.</u>	10.36	19.2	0.61	9.74	4.07	-
Tuberculosis only						
<u>Whole carcasses</u> <u>condemned.</u>	7	11	2	-	6	-
<u>Carcasses of which some</u> <u>part or organ was</u> <u>condemned.</u>	25	51	2	-	424	-
<u>Percentage of the No.</u> <u>inspected affected with</u> <u>tuberculosis.</u>	3.57	9.16	0.19	-	1.32	-





7. Meat Inspection (Contd).

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows &amp; Bulls.</u>	<u>Bulls and Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parts of carcasses & Offal.	3	1	-	-	-	-

(Where parts of carcasses and offal were condemned for cysticerci, the remainder of carcasses were detained for the prescribed deep freeze treatment before release).

Total quantity of meat condemned - 17 tons 8 cwt 45 lbs.

8. UN SOUND FOOD.

The following food was voluntarily surrendered from shops or stores --

Meat Products.

Canned Ham	...	172 lb.
Canned Tongue	...	24 lb
Corned Beef	...	56 lb
Miscellaneous Canned Meat Products	...	18 lb.

Other Food

Kippers	...	1 stone
Wet Fish	...	11 stone
Canned Fish	...	3 lb.
Canned Vegetables	...	11 lb.
Canned Fruit	...	42 lb.
Canned Milk	...	2 lb.

Total weight - 4 cwt 48 lbs.

All unfit food was destroyed or disposed of under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors.

99. DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

The Cornwall County Council delegated powers of inspection and licensing of boiling plants under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957 to the Borough Council.

Three licences for the operation of such boiling plants were issued during the year.



## 10. HOUSING.

Although housing still remains a major problem the number of cases of families unhoused has been much reduced; much, however, remains to be done to rehouse families from unfit premises and there is no place for complacency in this direction.

The Council has concentrated on the individual unfit house rather than the Clearance Areas, partly in an endeavour to get the best of two worlds, namely, rehousing people from slum properties and also to house people off the waiting list.

There is a marked increase in the number of private house building and with the promise of higher mortgages, this should speed up house building and help solve the housing problem.

It is to be hoped that the building of dwellings by both the Council and private enterprise will gain momentum. This is essential if we are to see any appreciable improvement in the standard of housing.

### Unfit Housing - Action Taken.

#### (a) Clearance Areas.

Families displaced from unfit houses ... 14 (28 persons).

#### (b) Individual Houses dealt with.

Houses demolished under Sec. 17 (1) Housing Act 1957 ... 1

Families displaced from houses demolished - 1 (2 persons).

Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 (4) and 17 (1) Housing Act 1957. ... 11

Families displaced from houses closed ... 9 (32 persons).

Unfit houses made fit or defects remedied ... 19

(Work done by owners after informal action by local authority).

### Improvement Grants.

Four applications were received for improvement grants. The Council approved payment of grants in six cases (including some applications received at the end of 1957). The total amount of grants approved was £1,454.

### New Housing.

#### Local Authority Housing

##### New dwellings completed in 1958.

#### Helston Ward.

Two-bedroom houses	..	2
Two-bedroom flats	...	16
Three-bedroom houses	..	8

#### Porthleven Ward

Two-bedroom bungalows	...	4
Two bedroom flats	...	4

New dwellings under construction 31st December, 1958 -

#### Helston Ward

One-bedroom flats	...	12
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#### Porthleven Ward

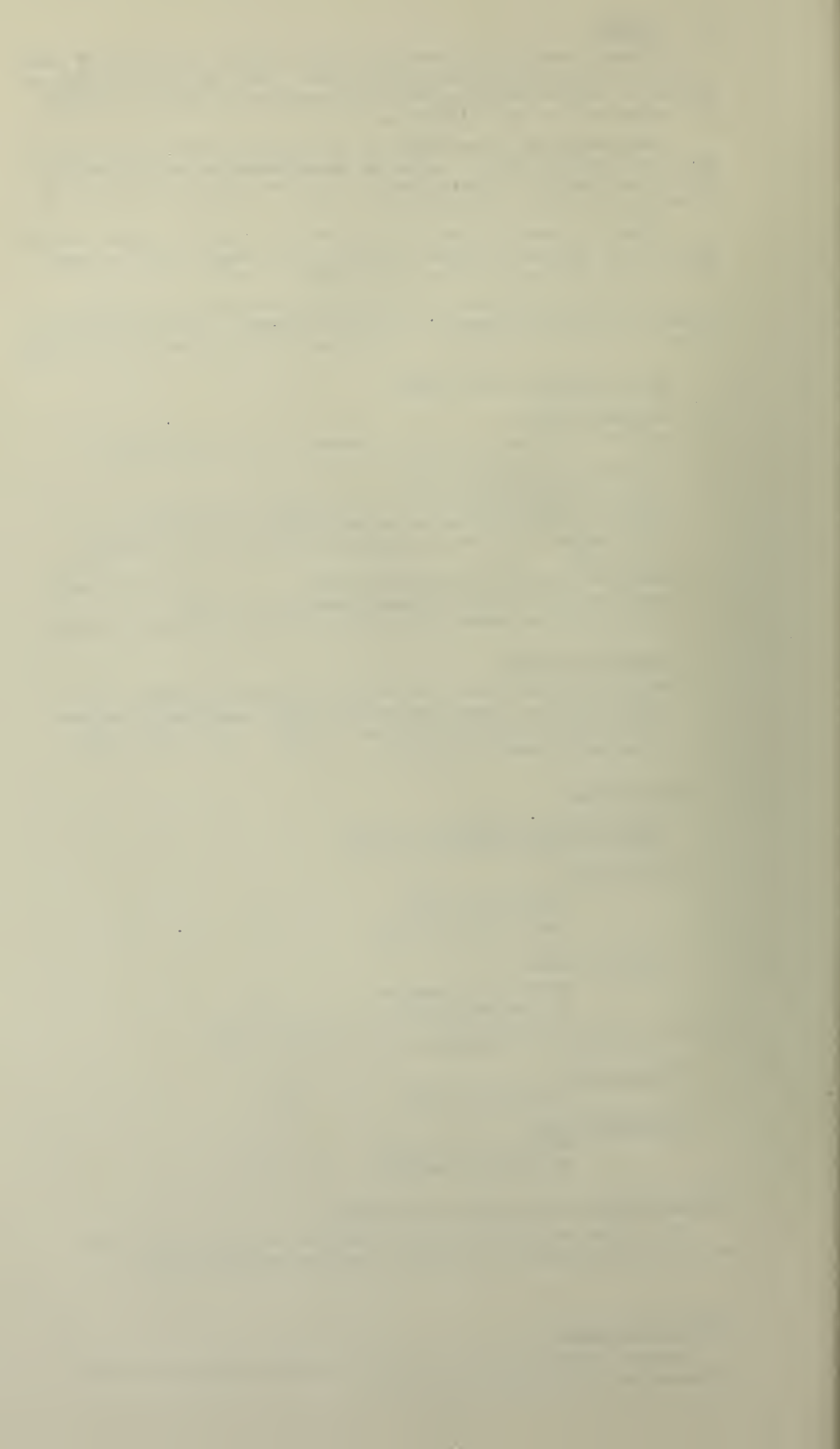
One-bedroom bungalows	...	6
Two-bedroom bungalows	...	8

### Housing erected by Government Departments.

One estate comprising 105 dwellings was completed in the year. On an existing estate 68 additional dwellings were completed.

### Private Enterprise

Fifteen dwellings were completed and another fifteen were under construction at the end of the year.



10. HOUSING (Contd).

Rent Act, 1957

Only two applications for certificates of disrepair were received. Both were granted.

11. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Acts	573	Building Bye-laws	339
Housing Act	316	Council Houses	357
Factories	3	Public Conveniences	40
Sewage Plant	182	Watercourses	30
Refuse Tips	151	Camping Sites	6
Market	152	Keeping of Animals	11
Rodent Control	85	Insect Pests	8
Disinfection	1	Petroleum Installations	15
Waterworks	2	Shops (other than food shops)	14

Refuse Disposal

Controlled tipping is carried out at Helston & Porthleven. with the exception of a few rural properties in the Borough, a weekly refuse collection is made.

Both tips were treated to keep down rodent and fly infestations.

13. RODENT CONTROL.

One operator is employed on a part-time basis. The service was able to cope with all demands made on it.

Treatment of sewers at Porthleven and Helston was carried out during Spring and late Autumn.

14. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Seven public conveniences are provided in the Borough, inclusive of facilities at the Market and Coronation Park.

The convenience at Breageside, Porthleven caused considerable concern. It is badly in need of replacement owing to subsidence of the site and would have been demolished some years ago but the Council have been prevented from securing alternative sites for various reasons. During the year, however, another site was found, subsequently three formal objections were lodged, and a Ministerial enquiry was held and resulted in approval being given for the Council to apply for loan sanction to build.

